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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00
ERDA-05 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: (A) DACCA 06374 (B) STATE 266974

1. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT STATEMENT BY FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT NO DECISION YET TAKEN ON BANGLADESH ADHERENCE TO NPT IS MORE AUTHORITATIVE THAN INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DR. INNAS ALI.

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2. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO "USG PRESSURE" AND HIS QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER U.S. IN PAST HAD REQUIRED NPT ADHERENCE PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF RESEARCH REACTORS. IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. ALI, REPORTED IN REF B, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER POINTED OUT EVOLVING NATURE OF OUR NUCLEAR POLICY AND GROWING U.S. BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD INITIATE NEW NUCLEAR

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COOPERATION PROGRAMS ONLY WITH, OR AT LEAST GIVE MARKED PREFERENCE TO, NPT PARTIES. SUBSEQUENT OCTOBER 28 PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT MADE EXPLICIT THAT NPT ADHERENCE IS A STRONG POSITIVE FACTOR FOR NEW OR EXPANDED NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. MOREOVER, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS VIEW WILL BE DOWNGRADED, AND, IN FACT,

MAY BE APPLIED MORE STRICTLY. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO PROVIDE REQUESTED RUNDOWN ON PAST AGREEMENTS. IN FACT, WE WILL BE SEEKING TO RENEGOTIATE SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH MANY COUNTRIES TO UPGRADE THEM CONSISTENT WITH OCTOBER 28 POLICY STATEMENT AND VIEWS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE CONSIDER THE NPT TO BE AN EFFORT OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF NATIONS, NOT JUST THE U.S., TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS COMMON EFFORT IS TO EVERYONE'S ADVANTAGE AND, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT THE LESS MILITARILY POWERFUL NATIONS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO PROMOTE COMMON AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF PROLIFERATION. ADHERENCE BY BANGLADESH COULD CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANTLY TO MOMENTUM OF MOVEMENT TOWARD EVEN WIDER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION.

B. TO DATE, SOME 99 COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME PARTY TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NPT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT HAS BEEN EXEMPLIFIED BY ADHERENCE OF 17 COUNTRIES WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS. IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE AMONG THOSE WHICH HAVE ADHERED: AFGHANISTAN, NEPAL, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE. IN MIDDLE EAST, AMONG OTHERS, ARE SYRIA, IRAN, IRAQ, AND LIBYA.

C. WE WISH TO ASSURE BDG OF OUR CONTINUED DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND OUR WILLINGNESS, CONSISTENT WITH NEW POLICY CRITERIA WHICH EMPHASIZE NPT AHDERENCE, TO SEEK AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE ON A BILATERAL AGREE;ENT WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE EXPORT OF A RESEARCH REACTOR.

D. WE ARE IN NO WAY DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE BDG IN POINTING OUT THE POLITICAL REALITY THAT NPT ADHERENCE ON THE PART OF ANY STATE WILL GREATLY FACILITATE OUR ABILITY TO COOPERATE IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. MOREOVER, WE ARE PLANNING TO RENEGOTIATE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OF

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COOPERATION, WHERE NECESSARY, CONSISTENT WITH OCTOBER 28
POLICY STATEMENT AND VIEWS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO DR. ALI'S REQUEST FOR A DRAFT AGREE-
MENT OF COOPERATION, DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO BE RELUCTANT
TO SEEK AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO A
POLITICAL DECISION ON THE PART OF THE BDG THAT IT IS

PREPARED TO ADHERE TO THE NPT.
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